

Berkshire Community College



Sustainability Plan

Date: August 31, 2005

Agency Coordinator: Kim St Pierre

Phone: (413) 499-4660 ext. 401

Email: kstpierr@berkshirecc.edu

This Sustainability Plan has been reviewed and approved by (Paul Swearengin) of
(Berkshire Community College) on (August 31, 2005).

Signature of Agency Head or other Appropriate Designee

1. Agency Information, Impact Identification and Sustainability Team

1.1 Agency Description and Scope

Founded in 1960, Berkshire Community College (BCC) was one of the first community colleges established in Massachusetts. The college currently enrolls 2,400 full and part-time students, with 55 full-time and 107 part-time faculty, and 96 full-time and 53 part-time staff. The College offers thirty-five associate degree and certificate programs at its main campus in Pittsfield and at its south county center in the town of Great Barrington. Also offered, are a wide range of noncredit workforce development training options. Throughout its forty-five year history, BCC has provided comprehensive, accessible, and technologically advanced educational experiences for the residents of Berkshire County, as well as the adjacent areas of southern Vermont, eastern New York state, and northern Connecticut. As the only viable option for higher education for many in the region, the college's central mission is to provide an affordable and high quality educational program for the community it services to ensure that all students are prepared to succeed in the context of rapid social and economic change. BCC is also by its mission committed to assuming a leadership role in advancing the community's workforce development efforts. Each year, the college enrolls an additional 2,100 students in non-credit job training and lifelong learning courses and programs. The main campus is located on the west side of the City of Pittsfield, approximately 3.5 miles from the downtown area. The surrounding land uses and high visual quality of the natural environment provide an excellent setting for the college. The total acreage of the campus is approximately 182 acres that is all within the Pittsfield city limits. The framework of the existing zoning that surrounds the campus provides for a low density residential environment. We have nine buildings with 161,221 net square feet, or 250,494 gross square feet. Instructional related spaces (classrooms, labs, computer labs, and faculty offices) account for almost 50 percent.

1.2 Agency Impacts on the Environment and Human Health

Between our staff and students, we consume 663,818 cubic feet of water, 2,299,200 KW of electricity, and 731,736 CCF of gas. We have approximately 4,680 cubic yards of Solid Waste Removed and 412 cubic yards of Recyclables removed annually. We used 4500 gallons of unleaded gas and 625 gallons of diesel fuel. We had hazardous waste removed which included: radioactive materials, pathogenic waste, bio-waste, fluorescent bulbs, mercury, lead acid batteries, developer with silver,

waste oil, lab packs, oxidizing materials, reactive oxidizers/organic peroxides, organic materials, and acids. We used approximately 1646 cases of paper in the last fiscal year.

1.3 Agency Operational Costs

Our cost for utilities is approximately \$10,074 for water, \$202,634 for electricity, and \$298,571 for gas annually. Our cost for removal of Solid Waste and Recyclables is approximately \$27,600 annually. We spent approximately \$1,247 on diesel fuel and \$8,173 on gasoline last fiscal year. We spent \$9,453 on hazardous waste removal and disposal. We spent approximately \$38,784 on paper in the last fiscal year.

1.4 Agency Sustainability Team Members

Paul Swearengen (Dean of Administration & Finance), Kim F. St. Pierre (Staff Assistant to the Dean of Administration & Finance), Frances Feinerman (Dean of Academic Affairs), Thomas Tynning (Environmental Faculty), Richard Wixsom (Director of IT), Marzi Carlopoli (Head of Maintenance)

2. Long-Term Goals/Vision

2.1 Long-Term Goals

The Berkshire /Community College Environmental/Ecological Master Plan seeks to support the Mission Statement of Berkshire Community College by providing realistic and cost-effective protocols for managing campus resources according to principles of ecosystem management and restoration. The planning process recognizes the value of, and seeks to build upon, the many different ecological communities already present at Berkshire Community College. The ecological master plan further seeks to maintain and increase biological diversity, conserve natural resources, reduce maintenance costs, and increase the aesthetic appeal of the BCC campus. The ecological master plan also seeks to infuse the goals of the plan into the academic program throughout the campus and become a showcase for similar projects elsewhere in the county and state. The plan provides for student and community involvement by offering learning opportunities, academic coursework, hands-on teaching and learning, and practical experience in various fields.

3. Short-term Actions and Priorities

3.1 Priority and Areas Goals

- 1. Renovate existing buildings to be more energy efficient**
 - a. Develop facilities master plan in conjunction with BHE and DCAM Regional Master Plans.**
- 2. Reduce use of salt for snow and ice removal**
 - a. Implement program that would utilize artificial salt for snow/ice removal.
- 3. Environmental/Ecological Master Plan**
 - a. Maximize the use of native plant material in all landscaping and natural areas on campus.
 - b. Minimize/eliminate the presence of invasive exotic plants.
 - c. Implement an annual management plan for all outdoor areas (mowing, cutting, planting, etc.).
 - d. Implement a "Plant Health Care" program to optimize long-term health of soil and plants throughout the campus.

- e. Minimize/eliminate pesticide (including herbicide) and excessive fertilizer use.
- f. Maximize environmental health of all wetlands on campus. Restoration of damaged areas.
- g. Reduce the amount of mowed lawn.
- h. Implement a public landscape education program.
- i. Encourage integration of ecological/grounds management with academic studies.
- j. Produce an annual report on the status of land management at BCC, including a list of previous goals and accomplishments. Include a list of goals for the upcoming 1 - 5 years.

3.2 Agency Action Steps

See Attached Chart.

4. Management Systems and Institutionalization

4.1 Integrating Environmental Impacts into Key Decision Points

N/A

4.2 Education and Training of Staff

Employee forums and campus email.

4.3 Management Systems

Committee will identify, incorporate, and allocate environmental responsibilities into the agency's operations.

5. Tracking Progress and Program/Plan Review

5.1 Agency Tracking and Reporting Form

Committee will review, complete, and submit annual Agency Tracking and Reporting Form.

5.2 Continuous Improvement

Committee will meet to evaluate and monitor goals every three months. Department heads will be encouraged to incorporate goals into future planning. The plan will be reviewed, and altered if necessary, by the committee at meetings.

Appendix 4 - Agency Sustainability Workplan Worksheet

For Use in Section 3 of the *Agency Plan Template* "Short Term Actions and Priorities" and should be submitted as part of the agency plan.

This worksheet is intended to help agencies develop an action plan to help identify the key sustainable activities the agency wants to address, as well as identify the key staff necessary to ensure program success. The information provided here is for sample purposes only

Sustainable Goal	Benefits	Specific Tasks	Responsible Staff	Timeline
Develop facilities master plan in conjunction with BHE and DCAM Regional Master Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate buildings to be more energy efficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop regional master plan for campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Swearengin, Dean Admin and Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per timeline established by the Board of Higher Education
Implement program that would utilize artificial salt for snow/ice removal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce impact on environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify vendors Provide training in use of product to staff Identify equipment needed for application Develop budget for new program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim St Pierre, Staff Assistant Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor Paul Swearengin, Dean Admin & Finance/ Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor Sustainability Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2005 Spring 2006 Spring 2006 Spring 2006
Maximize the use of native plant material in all landscaping and natural areas on campus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and increase biological diversity Reduce water consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify native plants Develop native landscaping guidelines for the campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Tynning, Professor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall 2005
Minimize/eliminate the presence of invasive exotic plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and increase biological diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify invasive exotic plants Eliminate the invasive exotic plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Tynning, Professor Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Spring 2006 and ongoing
Implement an annual management plan for all outdoor areas (mowing, cutting, planting, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce maintenance costs Conserve natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop grounds master plan Research best practices in grounds maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability Committee Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall 2005 Fall 2005
Implement a "Plant Health Care" program to optimize long-term health of soil and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce maintenance costs Conserve natural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research best practices in grounds maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring 2006

plants throughout the campus.	resources			
Minimize/eliminate pesticide (including herbicide) and excessive fertilizer use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce maintenance costs • Conserve natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research best practices in grounds maintenance • Identify potential vendors through state contract that are the most cost-effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor • Kim St Pierre, Staff Assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2005 • Spring 2006
Maximize environmental health of all wetlands on campus. Restoration of damaged areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain and increase biological diversity • Conserve natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research best practices in grounds maintenance • Develop guidelines for care of wetlands • Identify damaged areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor • Tom Tynning, Professor • Tom Tynning, Professor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2005 • Completed • Ongoing
Reduce the amount of mowed lawn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce maintenance costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop native landscaping guidelines for the campus • Research best practices in grounds maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Tynning, Professor • Marzi Carlopoli, Maintenance Supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2005
Implement a public landscape education program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student and community involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a public landscape education program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Tynning, Professor • Frances Feinerman, Dean Academic Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2006
Encourage integration of ecological/grounds management with academic studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student and community involvement • College involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop open laboratory opportunity for students • Provide availability of campus grounds for laboratory experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances Feinerman, Dean Academic Affairs • Paul Swearengin, Dean Admin & Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2006 • Spring 2006
Produce an annual report on the status of land management at BCC, including a list of previous goals and accomplishments. Include a list of goals for the upcoming 1 – 5 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student and community involvement • College involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize new program to staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall 2005

